



Emerging Ecology

Experience Interchange
For The Global Classroom

December 2014

Essays by students at

Northeast Guilford High School, Chikhale Ashram Shalla
and Forsyth Country Day School

Focus Question:

My Neighborhood

Writers describe how they interact with the natural world
around their school, home, village or neighborhood.

Student #68, 12th Grade Male

I interact with the natural world in a variety of ways. At my house I have to take care of lawn every 2 or 3 weeks by doing different jobs. I have to mow my lawn front and back, trim my hedges, and also pull up weeds. Every couple of months we have to put down new mulch to replace the old ones. Since it is winter time the leaves on the tree fall this season and it's my job to rack them all up. During the summer my house deals with cicadas and cicada killers. We try our best to fight them off by putting down certain resources to kill them off. We also try to stop any other type of insect trying to make hills or etc. We also have to try and stop birds from making a nest on our porch. When going to school since I have an AP earth and environmental class we do lots of hands on things with the natural world. We have planted different types of plants ever since we started the class. We also help keep the turtles alive and well.

Student #86, 12th Grade Female

Every morning, I wake up to the dark grey clouds with a hint of sunlight. It tries to peek through the clouds, but the clouds are bound together, not allowing its rays to shine and light up the sky. It's currently winter; that means three months of endless dark grey cloudy mornings to wake up to, barely any daylight, and long nights. The air is cold and still and as I breathe it in, I also breathe in carbon dioxide from the cars in the driveway of my house. As their engine roars, carbon dioxide flows out from the pipe and into the air, overpowering the oxygen within the air. My house contains three bedrooms, two bathrooms, dryer and washing machine room, a garage, and a kitchen/living room.

Where I live, we rely heavily on electricity and technology. It's become apart of our daily lives and without it, we couldn't function. No cellphones, televisions, computers, etc. I try to not rely on them so heavily just in case one day, those devices stop working. There's a forest a few feet away from my house in my backyard that I like to escape to. It has a small concrete trail I follow and it leads me to a beautiful stream. It's beautiful and breathtaking because, it hasn't been damaged by what technology has done to the rest of the world. Now that the weather is getting colder, I've spent less time there due to not wanting to get sick. I see places like this as I stare out the window of my bus when it takes me to and from school. Their lands are flat with cows, horses, goats, etc. roaming on them. As the bus pulls into the school parking lot, I'm looking at an old building that was built in the late sixties. Inside, it's a whole different story. There are many hallways with classrooms and lockers (to store your school supplies in) on the sides of it. In a classroom, there are individual desk set in rows of six or more and a desk for the teacher either at the front or back of the room. In the front of the room is a white board and a screen that you have to unravel. Teachers are all equipped with laptops and those laptops are connected to a projector. The projector projects the screen of the laptop and we sometimes take note or watch videos on the screen. My school provides breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. Students are allowed to sit on the benches in the cafeteria or outside. School lasts for eight hours starting at nine in the morning and ending at three fifty-five. Once the final bell rings, signaling us to leave, I hop back on my bus and travel back home. So who am I? I'm just an average sixteen year old girl named Kristen who just wants to do good in the world and my story starts here.

Student #164, 12th Grade Female

I am studying in AP Environmental Science. I live Greensboro, North Carolina. My school is called NorthEast High. In my science class we have a garden at our school. We have recently plant trees in our garden. We also have a trail near by our school that we walk through to learn about different plants and species in our environment. Right now in the season of fall, the trees leaves are turning brown and are falling of the branches. The grass is brown colored and dry. The plants die in the fall and winter time.

We celebrate a day called "Earth Day". On this day I try to be as helpful to the Earth as I can. I pick up trash of the ground and use less water to save it. Sometimes I rake the fallen leaves off the ground in front of my house. I like to look at the nature around my house. People have beautiful flowers in their yard. There are many large trees around where I live. I like to take pictures of the plants that I see. I think nature is the prettiest early in the morning. I go outside sometimes to watch the sunrise and the sky turn a pretty pink-orange color. Around my house there are many forests and large fields. I walk through the forests and fields sometimes to just enjoy the nature's beauty.

I'd like to plant more trees around the area I live in, since so many trees are being cut down for buildings and other things. We need more trees to help bring us more oxygen. Trees are pretty, but they also help us to survive. I plant flowers with my grandma sometimes. We like the way the flowers make the yard look colorful and beautiful. Planting flowers is a fun activity I think many people should do. Gardening is a good way to pass the time and a good way to help the Earth. That's how I interact with the natural world in my area.

Student #26, 12th Grade Female

I am 16 years old, I live in Greensboro, North Carolina and I am a sophomore at Northeast Guilford High School. I live in a three bedroom home with my dad, stepmom, and baby sister. I play volleyball for school, and outside of school at a local sporting complex. Every day I ride to school with my friends and we typically stop to get breakfast at a local fast food restaurant. After that we go to school to arrive before the bell rings at 8:55. When I get to school I go to 4 classes, English, Sports Marketing, AP Environmental Science, and Multimedia and webpage design.

After school gets out at 3:55, I usually go straight home and play video games till my stepmom gets home and I help her with my sister and watch her while she does laundry and other things around the house. We eat dinner when my dad gets home around 6:00; sometimes we cook other times we go out to eat at different restaurants. After dinner I typically take my shower before I go to bed than dry my hair. Sometimes after I lay down I read a book, or watch television. Instead of keeping all the lights on in my room I usually light all the candles I have around my room so that I don't use more electricity than I have too, plus they smell good so that helps.

On the weekends when I am not at school I am usually spending time with friends, we go shopping, go eat, and go to the movies. Sometimes when we all don't have any money we stay in and just watch movies and spend time together. When I am not with my friends I am spending time with my family. Usually on the weekends I spend time with my dad because he travels out of town frequently, we go to a lot of concerts together because music is something we both really enjoy.

During the summer months when school is out I work at a local summer camp with young children. At this camp we do various activities such as, canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, and play different sports. The camp lasts June to August, and it's just week days. The kids I worked with are 5 to 7 and helped me realize I want to be a teacher following High school. Then after camps over its back to the school routine from the end of August till beginning of June.

Student #33, 12th Grade Male

I wake up every day by my alarm clock, then I jump in the shower this is an ever day thing, then I go to school and use paper, and sometimes I use wooden pencils after I come home from school I go to the back deck and most of the time just sit outside and look at the woods behind my house and think while drinking hot tea or coffee and now since its getting winter time I go out with a maul and split wood for my fire place so I can get warm and it makes my house looks pretty, then I go inside and sit on my bed with my laptop as I listen to music and do my homework after I get it done I start cooking diner after its done I eat of course and then I clan the kitchen, I wash the dishes in my dish washer, I take out the trash and clean up my messes, sometimes I'll even bake a pie or cookies or even a cake! Then I'll take another shower wash my clothes and I'm off to bed, but soon I'll have my license and I'll finally be able to dive my car but I like to go on walks, I could walk anywhere and everywhere for that matter, I just can't wait to be able to drive, I'll have a lot more freedom then what I have now and after that I can finally get a real job.

Student #212, 12th Grade Female

I interact with my environment by plants flowers around my house and watering them, I also have to make sure my yard is clean by raking leaves and making sure there are no branches in the yard so my little sister can play without getting hurt, I also make sure I sort the trash out by what can be recycled and what can't and I put everything that can be recycled in the blue trash can and what can't be recycled in the brown trash can.

I also go around and help people in my neighborhood clean up their yard, also in my science class we do a lot of hands on things like planting, cleaning the turtles we have in our classroom and making seats out of tree trunks another thing we are working on is giving back to our neighbors by giving the homeless and needed what they need to survive through the winter I think this will be a great and successful project.

Student #28, 12th Grade Male

I interact with the world around my home and school in many ways. My pet dog is my biggest interaction with the surrounding area. My dog is an outside dog, so she needs a place to roam. Besides from this, she tends to scare off animals that'd usually wander into our yard without her- such as rabbits, raccoons, etc. This isn't necessarily a good thing, but it isn't bad either. At the cost of scaring off the beneficial rabbits, she ensures that more irritating animals such as mice don't begin to populate around our house, as well as keeping raccoons from digging in the trash. Every winter, we cut burn wood in a wood-stove when it gets cold. This is another large interaction with the woods that surrounds the house. We usually take trees that have fallen and use them for fuel. Again, it's neither good nor bad because it clears out the forest, but prevents the nutrients in the tree to return to the soil in a more beneficial manner. There's also a massive pile of wood at the edge of the forest that essentially is sitting there to rot. We've amassed so much wood- and still collect it- that it rots.

Another seasonal event that we participate in around my home is feeding birds during the winter. In North Carolina, there are many species of birds that populate the sprawling forests- such as the Cardinal, Blue Jay, and Woodpecker. By feeding these birds, they stand a better chance of surviving the winter and reproducing in the summer. These three species in particular stay around all winter. During the summer, they consume insects typically seen as pests, such as mosquitoes. On occasion, there's trash on the side of the road, and I like to pick it up so it doesn't pollute the neighborhood.

In our AP Earth and Environmental Sciences class, we grow a garden in the courtyard. It's filled with small herbs, flowers, and vegetables like tomatoes. Some of the herbs we grow benefit the garden by fixing nitrogen in the soil so it may be used by other plants. The trees in the courtyard- like in the forest- provide shelter for the native animals, mostly being birds. Many beneficial insects and arachnids also make their homes in the trees and plants. Spiders will control the pest population like flies; meanwhile ladybugs will consume aphids that eat the leaves of plants. Other insects like the honeybee and butterfly pollinate the crops so they can grow vegetables. Without them, the mini-ecosystem would not be able to perform properly. In the upcoming year, we plan to grow food and then donate it to the local food drive for the homeless.

Student #150, 12th Grade Male

I am happy you are reading my essay! During the day, I go to school. I take the bus and the bus driver drives us to school. I am 17 years old. In the U.S. you can start driving as early as 16 years old. So, a lot of kids drive to school in their own car. My school is called Northeast High School. My fourth period class is AP Environmental Science and we have our own garden that we tend to. We have planted a fig tree and a persimmon tree. We have also a vegetable called collard greens which grow the best in the winter.

After school, I go to swim practice. Our school swim team competes against other schools. We have a lot of other sports at my school too. Like football, basketball, tennis, wrestling, soccer, golf, and track. Most of these sports are spring sports which can be played outside and the weather is warm. But swimming is a winter sport so the pool must be inside.

Sometimes, I go to the park and I play with my little cousins on the playground. Or when the weather is nice, we fly kites. And sometimes we ride bikes. I also like to go to the beach in the summer. My dad likes to go fishing in June and I go with him sometimes. Thank you for reading my essay!

Student #38, 12th Grade Male

I am in the 11th grade at Northeast Guilford High School in North Carolina. I interact with the natural world around me both at school and at home. At school we just recently set up a small garden in the courtyard and we use it for both real life observations and my teacher Ms. Livingston eats the strawberries that grow in it. I also interact by driving to and from school every day. At my home we have planted bushes and other plants around our house. We also have a small garden that we use for tomatoes, basil, and parsley. My house is two stories and we also have a garage for my mom's car. We try to use as much fresh food as we can when we cook food but we usually have to get most of it from the grocery store. Most of the time when we want to go somewhere we need to drive because there isn't a lot of things around my house but in the summer we usually walk to the pool in our neighborhood. We also recycle cans, bottles, and other recyclable things. Usually when we cook food we save everything that we don't eat so we can have it for lunch the next day or just something to eat when we don't feel like cooking. That is pretty much all of the interactions I have with the world around me and I am really excited to skype with you guys and learn about how y'all interact with your environment!

Student #83, 12th Grade Female

I am a junior at Northeast Guilford High School in North Carolina; I don't live a very lavish life, I am part of the average middle class. I live in a small house on a decent area of land, with my 3 other family members. I am responsible for keeping the yard neat which in many ways hurts our environment. Every autumn I am required to rake leaves and bag them up which keeps these nutrients from re-entering the soil and taking habitats away from small organisms. I learned that in class this year that the leaf litter that we consider "ugly" plays a major role in sustaining our environment.

Since I live farther from the city, we use well water which is collected and stored whenever it rains here, our entire region doesn't have any major rivers or sources of water so our entire county relies on our rain and if we enter a drought we enter a panic. I personally don't interact much with the environment out of school because I prefer to stay inside; however, at school, in this class, we go on nature walks to get closer to the environment and to have a better understanding of how it works. We also do simulations of what occurs in nature so we can see all of the struggles different species face, these simulations encourage us to make a difference in our world to help these animal's future. I have encouraged my family to start recycling because it can make a difference in the world, no matter how small of one.

I may not go physically interact with all that often, but every day I am exhaling carbon dioxide back into the environment for the plants to take in and convert back into the oxygen we need to live. I do however eat a lot of processed food that comes in packages, producing more waste than I would like, we can't do anything with this waste beside go dump it in a landfill and let it collect. To lessen the amount of waste I produce daily I have started using reusable water bottles. I'm trying to better myself in order to help our local environment, but it is a process.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read about my life and the things I do and I am excited to skype with your class over the next few months.

Student #24, 12th Grade Female

In my day to day life I interact interchangeably with the natural world and the man-made world. When I'm at home, I walk my dog around my yard daily. Also my family has a little tomato plant where we grow cherry tomatoes. I frequently, during the fall, have to rake the leaves that fall from the three humongous trees in my yard. I also appreciate the natural beauty of my community during the summer when I go outside and when the trees change colors in the fall. During the summer I play outside with my sisters and when my little sister has a birthday party we also go outside. Usually we run around outside and play on a trampoline. I also love to see when the leaves change colors in the fall. They show me how changes are imperative to life. Since we have big trees in our yard we also have to pick up the multiple branches that fall during the year. I also interact with the natural world when I am at school, especially when I'm in my AP Environmental Science class. We have a garden that we frequently take care of. We have to water and make sure that the multiple plants are growing and maturing properly. This allows me to have a deeper understanding of how much time and effort goes into growing and farming the food that I consume. We also go on nature walks on a trail behind the school. This trail exposes us to multiple different species of: fungi, ferns, trees, flowers, mosses, bacteria's, and animals. Also during the winter around my house, we shovel snow in order to get out of our neighborhood and to go to school. Another way that I interact with the environment is that we go to a Christmas tree farm in order to get our Christmas tree for the year. My family also goes to a nearby strawberry farm in order to get strawberries during the summer. We also used to plant flowers around our house, but we stopped after the flowers were mowed down at one point. Even though, I don't interact with my natural environment as much as I should, I understand how important it is to respect, learn, and adapt to my environment.

Student #42, 11th Grade Male

My school name is primary secondary & higher secondary ashram school chikhale. In village there is a temple of god many people comes in it for doing worship. My school is one of the best schools in my village. It has a big play ground where students play different games.

There is a lake near my school student's uses it water for washing clothes and villagers' have planted so many trees around it on republic day. People would catch fish in it.

My school has a small garden where beautiful flowers, fruits and different kind of trees are planted. There is also railway station famous for celebrating good function it almost 700m away from our school. There is army school in it so many students are studding.

I like my chikhale village and natural beauty very much.

Student #65, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th sci faculty. My school name is Aided Pri. Sec & High secondary ashram school chikhale. I daily wake up early in the morning, have some exercise I walk on the road beside of My school. The air has nice smell that makes the very exciting. Then i do little breakfast which was provided by the school The campus of my school is very nice & beautiful, almost 750 students take education in my school .We every year plant so many plans on the right occasion.

My school is not situated in the thick forest but it looks fresh area than the crowded city. I like greenery which only get from the natural world around my school. My friend i walk on the road every evening to see the natural beauty of the nature. The natural world bestowed us so many thing. That may major role in our life, we get so many things from the nature around us & different kind of medicinal plant. I take care of being cut of trees; I always try to save them.

Student #167, 11th Grade Female

i am studying in 11th science class. My school name is Anudanit pri. Sec. And High sec ashram school chikhale. It is situated in the heart of my village. There are many trees besides my village some trees are medicinal among them. The trees are very useful for our life. Many trees gives us shadow, fruits, medicines. In my village have a one pond and in this pond have many fishes. The water of this pond is very useful for the native peoples.

Many boys swims in it. Around of my village there are many farms and farmer grows grains fruits and vegetables in it. I am sure that farmer is the backbone of my village and we get food because of their hardwork only. In every year person strive hard growing good crops from their own land grampanchayat of my village have discoverd many ways of initiated of garbage and have deviced many schemes for cleanliness of the village. So I am saying with proudly that my village is remain always clean and green

Thank You.

Student #193, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty at aided pri, sec, and high sec ashram school chikhale. my every act connect me with the natural world around me. I always wander in the forest and enjoy the beauty of nature. My village is also very nice and beautiful. It is surrounded with big hills and the forest. Basic things are not available in my village. It is 6km away from panvel. Infrastructures are not available in my village. You have to commute by foot to reach at it. The reserved land is in my village.

My village is filled with different kind of plants and bushes. It is very beautiful place to see. It has a big forest and different kind of birds and animal fount in it has planted so many plants in it. Tourist spot is also available in my village. Children go to see in every weekend like my village very much .i go to in the forest to catch the hare and other birds.

Student #2, 11th Grade Female

I am studying in 11th science faculty. My village name is Chikhale. It is situated in the heart of the city. My village is very big. There are three schools and colleges in my village. There are big ponds in my village filled with fishes and other things. The pond is very useful for living people and hostel students for washing the clothes and bathing in it. Two thousand people live in the village like to enjoy the beauty of nature. So I wake early in the morning and enjoy the fresh air. Big grampanchayat office is in my village. It started initiative for protecting the natural world around my village. It includes personal hygiene and repairing drainage etc.

My village is famous for hills and temples. My village attracts other people because of its beauty. Roads are available for travelling. Greenery will be seen everywhere around my village. Railway station also available in my village to go outside. My village is surrounded with plants and bushes. I always try to keep the natural beauty of my village. Kolkhe is another village attached to my village. Giroba is the most popular temple in my village. I like my village very much and I am proud of my village.

Thank you!

Student #15, 11th Grade Female

I am studying in 11th science faculty. My school name is aided pri, sec and high sec ashram school chikhale. there are more than 70 houses in my village and they all take care of the natural world around us. It is occupied with different kind of people .so many useful plants also planted in it.

My village is 8 km away from panvel city. The big lake is at the beginning of the village .it is filled with water like nature very much .I take care being damage it. I always try to tell the villager the important of the natural world around us and its importance's like to go away for walking and enjoying the fresh air like my village very much.

Thank you!

Student #135, 11th Grade Female

I always try to go on hilly area. I like to go there and see, the natural beauty of it, nature is really amazing things created by the god. For the human being. I learn in Anu. Pri Sec. & High sec. Ashram school chikhale, in 11th sci faculty. I like to go picnic and enjoy the beauty of the natural world. I always try to plant the trees in every year around my school, village or in front of nature. After summer vacation I go to Matheran which is known for different kind of beaches and hilly area.

It is one of the best places to see & enjoy the beauty of it, the air is very fresh and it is surrounded by the forest. I see their different kind of things in the forest. Such as birds, animal, plant & bushes. I enjoy the swimming. So many tourists visit the place to see & enjoy the natural beauty of it. I never try to cut the trees but add in it. Nature is the one of the best limb of human beings, if there were no nature, our existence would have come to end. I take care of my neighbourhood and enjoy the beauty of it.

Student #14, 11th Grade Male

My school name is Anudanit pri, sec & Higher sec. ashram school chikhale I like my school very much. Around my school different types of plants, them some are medicinal plants, flowering plants and other. Beside my school is the big pond, having various kind of lotus flower,in it .Farmer lives at the back of my schiil with their own farm. They grow good crops in it. Around my school is NH-4 national Express Highway, and a Railway station. Near my school very big BRC colony, and one of the god temple. Different types of stalls arwe around my school. Around my school one of the Army school, students are disciplined in it. All places are very beautiful around my school.

Student #195, 11th Grade Female

I like to enjoy the beauty of natural world around us my village is very beautiful. It is situated in the hills thick forest. All the villager of my village takes care of the natural world around my village. They try to protect them. None of my family member does bad thing that will harm the natural world around my village. In every courtyard of my village they have planted different kind of flower and trees. We will not get to see the house without trees, in my village. I walk my village to see the natural beauty of it. My village have the big hills; it is full with different kind of trees and bushes. I like my village very much

Student #124, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty I would like to introduce my village. My village name is dhamani which is 22km away from my school. matheran road is joined my village. There are so many houses in my village. All people belong to tribal community. Primary, secondary school is around my village and more students come to learn. Around my village is the garden and i have planted so many plants init,such as banana tree, mangoes tree etc.their tastes are very sweet's always go to eat the fruit of them. It was juicy like as nector.the thick forest also surrounded to my village.

So many useful fruits, flowers and medicinal plants found in it enjoy the amazing tree it is called as palas.It has a red flowers.iit is looks very beautiful. It is not only attract the people but birds pick up that flower and decorate my house. In holiday I work in our own farm and earn money for my family. River is flowing beside my village go with my friend to swim in it as well in the dam.gadheshwar dam is star attract for the the tourist always go to there and see the beauty of it. I not only catch the fish in it but also swim in it also enjoy the hiking on the mountain. It is called as chandery.it is also known as "chandery water fall. Water flows in every season its speciality daily visit this beautiful place.

Student #112, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty. My school name Aided Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Ashram School Chikhale. In our school have 14 classes from 1st standard to 12th standard in Arts & Science units' and 18 teachers and 2 head masters are in our school

We all students are come from tribal villages. Our school has been established in 1989 at Nere tribal village. In this school only tribal students are learning. The come from many other tribal villages. My school is surrounding by green trees and bushes & also green hills. The Environment of arrounding of our school is very beautiful we all children are not only friends we living as well as Brother-Sister. We living lovely and friendly .I like everyone teachers and I like My School.

In the our school become many programs like as growing plants and bushes, come some great people to give us advice about our health, career and how we can live in this world. In the school also become Sports Competition. Near the school have a village and in that village become a fair in every year. In that fair we all school children I like My School very very much and I love My School. In the holiday I always go to the shivaji temple and try to enjoy the beauty of it. It is the beautiful hill station. It is 6km away from my village.

Student #64, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty. My village name is chikhale. It is a small village. It is 20km away from Mahad. It is situated in the boundary of Raigad and Ratnagiri district. It is on the Konkarni railway route like my village very much. I go to enjoy the travelling of it. I daily go to Mahad and enjoy the beaches of there. The population of my village is about 2000. Most of the villagers are the farmers. They work hard in their farm also go to my fields and work hard with my parents and friends. The main food of this region is rice, bhakari and curry. All the villagers eat fishes caught by the river also catch the fishes from the river and enjoy eating it. My friends and I go to the river on the every weekend to catch the fishes. My parents also come with us and enjoy the moment.

Most of the houses in the village are small and a few modern constructions have sprung up. Many narrow lanes run through the village. Because of construction so many trees and other useful things are being cut. The villagers are very careful about the natural world around them.

The big lake is also available in my village. Beside the village is the ashram school. Children take enjoy of swimming in it. I also take enjoy of swimming in it.

Temples are in the village. We always go into the temple to take the blessing from the god. The villagers enjoy the festival like Ganesh Utsav; Holi and Diwali. We enjoy the all festival mixing with the nature like my village very much.

Thank you!

Student #207, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty at aided pri, sec, and high sec ashram school chikhale. My village name is palasdary thakurwadi. In my village the big garden and juicy plants are planted in it. My friends had stolen the fruits from it. I occasionally go to the mountain to see the greenery of it. I always try to connect me with the natural world around me. I always wander in the forest and enjoy the beauty of it. My village is also very nice and beautiful. It is surrounded with big hills and the forest. All the basic things are available in my village. It is 2km away from panvel. Infrastructures are not available in my village. Before 10th standard I was going to my village by bus. The reserved land is in my village.

I sometime wander into the forest and collect the different kind of flowers from it. My village is filled with different kind of plants and bushes. It is very beautiful place to see. It has a big forest and different kind of birds and animal fount in it has planted so many plants in it. Tourist comes and visit ours place. Big ground is also available in my village. Children play in it. In every weekend we organise different kind of activity in it. I like my village very much .

Student #151, 11th Grade Female

I am studying in 11th sci faculty. I like my school very much. My school has a big building and all the students play in it grounds. I like play more than study. I have three friends. They take care of me very much. I always go to my village and plant some flowers plants around my house and take care of them being damage.

At the back of my school is a national express way. It is one of the long ways across the country. I daily go to there early in the morning to walk. It has six lane and full with vehicle. On the contrary I daily go to walk on it in morning and evening. Both side of the highways different kind of trees and flower plants are planted. It looks very beautiful just like the rays of the sun.

I like the flowers and fruits. I pick them from the surrounding. It taste are very nice. I like to wander around the nature but having the girl I cannot go outside. Even though I like to enjoy the beauty of the nature.

Student #79, 11th Grade Male

I like to go outside for walk. I like to enjoy the beauty of natural world around us my village is very beautiful. It is situated in the hills thick forest. All the villager of my village takes care of the natural world around my village. They try to protect them. I always try to keep the environment green and clean .No one of my family member does bad thing that will harm the natural world around my village. In every courtyard of my village they have planted different kind of flower and trees. We will not get to see the house without trees, in my village. I walk my village to see the natural beauty of it. My village have the big hills; it is full with different kind of trees and bushes. I like my village very much. My school is very beautiful. I have planted so many trees in ours school ground as well around the lake .The lake water used for the different kind of activities like washing the clothes, bathing and swimming.

Student #114, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty. My village name is Chikhale. I would like to introduce my village. My village name is chikhale which is 3km away from my school. It is situated in the heart of the city. My village is very green and clean. There are three schools and colleges in my village .there are big pond in my village filled with fishes and other things. The pond is very useful for living people and hostel student for washing the clothes and bathing in it. Two thousand people lives in the village like to enjoy the beauty of nature .so I wake up early in the morning and enjoy the fresh air. Big grampanchayat office is in my village. It started initiative for the protecting the natural world around around my village. My village is surrounded with thick forest and I like it.

In the holiday I go to see the natural places around my village. Sometime I go to my farm and take the experience which I had not taken earlier. My village is famous for hills and temples. My village attract the other people because of its beauty. Roads are available for travelling. Greenery will see everywhere around Pmy village .railway station also available in my village to go outside. My village is surrounded with plants and bushes I always try to keep the natural beauty of my village.kolkhe is another village is attached to my village. God Shiva temple is the most popular temple is in my village. I like my village very much and I am proud of my village.

Student #140, 11th Grade Female

I am studying in 11th sci faculty. My school is very beautiful. I like my school very much. My school is situated in the heart of the nature. I wake up early in the morning and having little breakfast I go to the walk around my school. In the holiday I causally go to my village and rushes toward the field to see the beauty of the nature. I always longed in my heart that I will help my nature to protect it from the damage.

Occasionally I wander into the forest with my friends and see birds and other interesting things which I have not seen earlier. I see so many things beyond my imagination. I like swimming, hunting and enjoying the beauty of the nature.

Student #166, 11th Grade Male

I am studying 11th Science faculty. My village name is Chikhale and it is very beautiful & I like my village very much. Around my village is a very big school. In my village are many types of stalls and have a good clinic in my village & it is private. Which generate so many initiatives among the people. Near the my village is the small hill station. In the rainy season many people come to see the waterfall.

Around the my village is a big NH-4 Express highway and a Railway station. In my village is a big BARC colony and there are so many types of plants & also are fruits plants, flowers plants and another most important thing that is the temple of God.

MY village is a very good village and I like very much my village. It has a big lake which is very useful for us and the villagers. I am pure vegetarian so I hate the people who eat meat.

Student #198, 11th Grade Male

I would like to introduce about my school. My school name is Anudanit Primary Srcndary and Higher Scondary Ashram School Chikhale there is 1st standard to 12th standard in Art and Science units. There are 18 teachers, two head masters, one Hostel supritendent and 9 non teaching staf are working our school. They all take care of all childrens. In the our school have a ground for playing and i is very big for plying we all students play in that ground and enjoy. We are plying many sports like as Kabbadi, Kho-Kho, Vollyball, and Badmentans that's like we play many sports on that ground.

In our school have a library, around the my school is very beautiful Environment. forward of my school is a big lake and in that lake we all wash our clothes & backside of my school have many bushes, Houses and have a B.A.R.C. Colony . Near the our school have a school Railway Station and from that station we travelling into Express Railway. My school is situated by the mountains, green hills, green trees and beautiful Environment.

I like my school very much and I love my school.

Student #199, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th sci faculty. I am learning in ashram school chikhale. I like my school very much. And I enjoy the every moment moment of my school with my friend. Ours school staff is big and everyone try to give more contribution to their school. Having some breakfast I go to the outside for the walks enjoy the walking with my friends and other classmate. We have a massive library. Students take more books from it. I always go to my college everyday and share my views with my friends. My friends and I always go to the railway station and enjoy ours moment. It is surrounded with thick forest and bushes.

I always go to the BARC colony .it is big housing society beside my school. So many trees are planted around it. On the Independence Day ours school students planted so many trees in the BARC colony including me. I take care of the nature being cut. Sometimes I swim in the lake hiding from the other.

I like the beauty of the nature and enjoying it.

Thank you

Student #142, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty. India is widely known as its diversity. The blessing hand of the nature is over it. It will be forever up to the end of the whole world. Indias nature is very beautiful as my neighbourhood. My village name is ambernath. It is urban area even though the municipality have started so many initiatives for the upkeep of the natural world around their city

I like the hilly area and the beaches. One of the best hill stations is widely known for its beauty it is known as "Matheran". It is the beautiful hill station and 30km away from my village. I enjoy the beauty of it having present there. I like the Matheran very much. So many in India are worth seeing. There are most popular places in India. In this places so many tourist come and visit. It includes many people out of India and domestics. I like historical places such as Raigad fort and Pratapgad and so many hill stations.

I am the fond of nature. I like to enjoy the beauty of the nature. Is love the nature

Student #116, 11th Grade Male

I would like to introduced my school, my school name is Anudanit Primary Secondary and high Secondary School Chikhale. There is 1st to 12st standard and two head master, in our school also in my school two faculties Arts and Science.

First I would like to introduced my village name is Chikhale. Which is 2 km a way from my School, Panvel raod is joined to my village rood their are so many houses around my village and they all to OBC community. in my village have a school and in that school many student are studding. The garden is around my village. Plants are in the such as coconut, mango and banana etc. Those fruits are very testy. My village surrounded by the forest. It has a pink flower it looks very beautiful.

In my village have a lake. People its water used for drinking, wash to clothes and used for other works. Purpose beautiful temples in my village. I feel very happy being the citizen of my village taking enjoying and taking fresh oxyzen near the our lake it is our favourite thing.

Student #161 11th Grade Female

I am studying in 11th Science faculty. My School name is Aided Primary Secondary and Higher Secondary Ashram School Chikhale. My village name is Chikhale. It is very beautiful village.

My village is 8:00km from panvel city. In the village there is B.A.R.C. Colony. Many kinds of people are live in this colony. There are more than seventy houses in the village. My village is very clean. From beginning of the village, there is big lake besides of lake.

In My village have a school and students of this school always connected to the Nature. The always participate in the grow the grains specially paddy in every year. The always do work hard in their own forms.

The National highway near from my village. The river is to its direction. In the village have many people's they have farming. The greenness of farm in increase. My village is good relationship with another. All of sides to village. I love my Village.

I like nature very much but occasionally I go to the outside and enjoy the every moment of the world. I really love the nature.

Student #157, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty. My village name is chikhale. My village is very beautiful and clean. My village is surrounded with thick forest and bushes. It is very beautiful and clean. We have planted so many trees in front of my house courtyard. My village is very nice and people are very well. I like to go to see the forest and the hilly area of my village.

The people of the village celebrate the festival such as Holi, Diwali etc. I try to get help of the other people to plant the trees around my village.

I try to go with my friend to their farm to see the natural beauty of the nature.

Student #125, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty. I like my school very much .MY school is very beautiful and clean. I always go with my friend outside to see the natural beauty of the natural world around my school. Different kind of trees and fields are at the back of my school. My school is situated in the heart of the nature.

Railway station is 200m away from my school. It is very beautiful place near my school. It is surrounded with the thick forest and bushes. Its runs via konkan route. I always go to see the the natural beauty of it.

In front of the school a big pond. I wash my clothes in it and sometimes try to swim in it. All the students are not allowed to swim in it but hiding myself I try to swim in it.

I like to visit the hilly area and enjoy their beauty as well I like beaches also .I like my school very much and the natural world around it.

Thank you!

Student #139, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th sci faculty. My school name is pri; sec and high sec ashram school chikhale. I am proud of my school and loves it. It is government aided and so many students learn in it. Every year our school organise picnic tour. The reason behind it that student should learn something from the nature. Students enjoy the natural beauty of the nature.

I like planting, irrigating, harvesting. I have not own land but I have been working with my parents in my childhood in other farm. Having in the school I casually go to see the natural beauty of the around my school.

A big lake is in front of my school. I like to swim in it .boys wash their clothes in it as well other things. I like my school very much.

Thank you!

Student #143, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science class. My school name is Anudanit pri. Sec. And High sec ashram school chikhale. It is situated in the heart of my village. There are many trees besides my village some trees are medicinal among them. The trees are very useful for our life. Many trees gives us shadow, fruits, medicines. In my village have a one pond and in this pond have many fishes. The water of this pond is very useful for the native peoples.

Many boys swims in it. Around of my village there are many farms and farmer grows grains fruits and vegetables in it. I am sure that farmer is the backbone of my village and we get food because of their hardwork only. In every year person strive hard growing good crops from their own land grampanchayat of my village have discoverd many ways of initiated of garbage and have deviced many schemes for cleanliness of the village. So I am saying with proudly that my village is remain always clean and green.

Thank You.

Student #172, 11th Grade Female

I am student of 11th sci faculty. My school name is aided primary, secondary and higher secondary ashram school chikhale. I like my village because it is very beautiful and clean. My village is away from my school. I go to the home every Saturday and Sunday. My village is known as the greenery of the district. Everywhere in my village appears greenery. My friend and I go to the forest for hunting.

I like the natural world around my village very much. My friend always goes to the hilly area. I like swimming in the river and fishing. I plant some flower in front of my school ground and even on some occasion we plant some useful trees in our village.

I love my village very much.

Student #4, 11th Grade Male

I am studying 11th science faculty. My village is filled with houses. So many plants are planed around my village and its looks very beautiful. My village name is chikhale.It is 8km away from the panvel city. My village people are far away from the modern life and they don't know how to develop their village.

My village is very beautiful. All the villagers have planted at least a tree in front of their home. Its look very beautiful. Everywhere you will get greenery to see. A river is flows around the village. I go to walk before my breakfast.

My village has another beauty to say it is the temple of God Shiva. So many flowers are planted around the temple. I always go to see it and enjoy the beauty of it. I like my village so much.

Thank you

Student #46, 11th Grade Male

I am studying in 11th science faculty. My school name is Anudanit Primary, Secondary and Higher secondary Ashram school Chikhale. Chikhale village is a very beautiful village its villagers are kept happy socially and economically .India will enjoy real freedom

Social-Service in villages are there for being encouraged young men of India shol sympathise with the villagers. I enjoy the bathing in the lake water. Well there some villagers were smoking the pipes and were chatting. Mud-houses were in majority. There were few pecca houses it had thin population. Around my village are so many plants and also is a garden in that garden have many beautiful flowers, plants and bushes. In that garden have many fruit trees like as Mangoes trees, Apple trees, Banana trees and have many other types fruits trees we enjoying in that garden. Those test is as so sweet the thick forest also surrounding by my village and so many useful the fruits, flower and medicinal plants founds in the forest. So on hills roads etc. Are common through not generally used music.

Student #119, 12th Grade Male

Our school is in Lewisville, North Carolina. North Carolina is in the southeastern part of the United States. The United States has many different climates in the different regions. The climate in North Carolina is very moderate. Every day I drive an automobile to school which lets out harmful gasses into the environment. However this is necessary to commute long distance. During the summer I spend more time in the outdoors because it is warmer than the winter months. During the summer my family takes multiple trips to the coast. While at the beach I go fishing on boats with my family. Also, I spend time on the beach with friends enjoying the warm weather and swimming in the ocean. During the summer I also spend time at the lake. While at the lake I like to relax and go water skiing and tubing. I also ride jet skis while I am at the lake. Another way I spend time in the warmer weather is playing golf with my friends. Walking 18 holes with friends is one of my favorite ways to interact with the outdoors. The golf course is also full of various ponds that I fish in during afternoons. I also like to go hunting in the fall. I go deer hunting with friends and family. Hunting is very relaxing and enjoyable way to spend time in the environment. When the weather becomes colder North Carolina receives moderate amounts of snow. However, the mountains receive greater amounts of snow. Often times during the winter I will take trips to the mountains to go skiing or snowboarding. When I go to the mountains I often go to Appalachian Ski Mountains. I try to spend as much time as possible in the outdoors because it is relaxing and very enjoyable. Because I like to spend so much time in the environment I try to do my best to keep it clean. I recycle what things I can, to prevent the large amounts of waste that gets buried in landfills. By recycling things I can prevent additional products from being made that are not necessary and do more harm to the outdoor space that I thoroughly enjoy.

Student #62, 12th Grade Female

There are many ways that I interact with my environment. Here in Lewisville, North Carolina, there are many things that make it easy to interact with the environment. At my school, Forsyth Country Day School, there is a large pond with live fish and other water animals. At our school, we have a fishing club, in which some students fish in the pond. Around the campus, there are many trees and also trails that are accessible for us to take jogs on. The trees and pretty scenery make the run very enjoyable. The temperature in Lewisville is hot in the summer and cold in the winter. The temperature changed very quickly, sometimes we joke about how sudden the weather changes. In the day time during this time of the year it is usually very cold, but gets even colder in the night and morning time. In the winter, we get snow. My favorite time of the year is the winter, because that means snow, and snow means missing school. In the summer, we have three months off for summer break. During the day, I see many animals throughout the day. From driving to school and seeing wild turkeys and cow in different pastures to seeing deer run through my neighborhood when I come home at night. Another way that I interact with the environment is my own garden. In my backyard, I planted my own garden that produces everything from parsley to carrots. This takes a lot of work but it is very rewarding because I get to enjoy some of the things I made in my garden for dinner in the evenings.

Student #202, 12th Grade Male

Everyday I interact with the environment. Each morning I get up and drive my automobile fifteen minutes to school. On the way to school I notice that the leaves have change from a vibrant green color to a dull red and yellow, which symbolizes that winter is on its way. While at school my interaction with the environment drops, other than on Fridays when we pick up recycling around the school. When the school day is over, I drive my automobile back home. When I get home I usually walk my dog throughout my neighborhood. On the weekends, I play golf, which is one of my any hobbies. The other important thing I do on the weekend is take care of my yard. I water the plants that and looking a little dry, and mow my yard, but as winter goes on my yard will not have to be mowed as much because the grass begins to die and no longer grows. On contrary, I must continue to water some of the plants around my house, as they need to be kept alive. Other plants will not be able to withstand the cold winters and must be moved inside where they are not affected by the freezing temperatures. Also I go fishing in fresh water ponds and catch small fish but I release them back into their home. During the day I see many animals. Some of these animals are friendly and some of them are afraid of humans and run away. Many of the things for my environment are good such as keeping plants alive and mowing my yard. In the end, I interact with my environment in many ways some that are bad and some that are good.

Student #145, 12th Grade Female

I live in Winston-Salem North Carolina where I live on one of the busiest roads in the city, Stratford Road. I often do homework and read out on my porch at home. Additionally, I go on regular runs through my neighborhood. I just love the interacting with the environment so much that it is a tradition for my sister and I to go on a five mile walk on Sundays through Reynolda Gardens. Reynolda Gardens has a beautiful trail with flowers and tall trees around the trail. In Reynolda Gardens I enjoy looking at the birds and the flowers and just enjoying being outside. I even have a bird and flower book for common birds and flowers found in North Carolina so I can learn about my surroundings. Not only do I go there with my sister but I will commonly go there on the weekends and throw a Frisbee with one of my good friends. If I did not go there enough, I also run in Reynolda Gardens often because my Cross Country team did our long runs there every Saturday morning. During the early spring and summer I feel as though I am outdoors all of the time. In the spring I will help tend to my family's garden and plant flowers. Also, since I miss soccer, the spring and the summer is the perfect time of year to get outdoors and kick the soccer ball around. During the winter, I am more reluctant to going out doors as much as I do in the summer, fall, and spring. I still go on runs and walks but they are less enjoyable as when the weather is warmer.

Student #133, 12th Grade Female

I interact with my environment in both positive and negative ways. I interact with my environment in a positive way because I do lots of things outside and I started a recycling program and my church. I go hiking and camping often, which means I am out in the natural environment quite often. Typically when I go hiking or camping around North Carolina there are lots of trees, various species of plants and animals, and other exciting features of the environment. Whenever I go camping I canoe to wherever we are going to camp, therefore giving me interacts with many different kinds of ecosystems, the ones in the water and the ones on the land. In other sorts, I interact and help the environment starting a better recycling program at my church. I did this by making sure that the congregation, the janitors, and the cooking staff recycles all of the plastics and glass bottles or containers after they have been used.

On the other hand, I also interact with the environment in a negative way. I do this by driving almost everywhere I go. Although driving is a sort of necessity in our society and city, everyone, including myself, drives to places they do not need to and therefore damaging the environment as a whole. I think that driving to school is probably where we damage the environment the most. I think this because I know lots of people who live around me, but we all drive separately and sometimes do not even take our siblings with us, which is worse because more cars are polluting the air. If all of us carpooled and did not drive separately we could significantly reduce the amount of exhaust pollution we put into the atmosphere.

Student #169, 12th Grade Male

I live in Clemmons, North Carolina, which is located in the eastern region of the United States. We have a very temperate climate and experience annual changes in the seasons. Going to Forsyth Country Day, our school has made significant strides to make our campus much more eco-friendly. I have gotten into the habit of recycling whenever I can and have tried to be more conservative when it comes to using plastic bottles. I fill up previously used water bottles more often than buying new water bottles. I especially save back by using my own water bottles. I have many because I participate in many camping trips throughout the year. Around here, I have camped in the Smokey Mountains and also camped on the outer banks. Recently, I had to be prepared for a cold weather trip due to the predictions of snowfall around the area of where we would be hiking. Besides from camping, I have also spent the past four years being an active runner. I thoroughly enjoy running through the trails around my school but also decided that there should be more options for runners. I made a running trail to complete a huge service project in the woods behind my school. I even plan on figuring an alternate route to connect the current trail and my trail this coming May. This is not my first conservation project though. I have also helped build a mountain bike trail around the foothills of North Carolina. Besides from riding bikes and running, I also enjoy driving my car. This is the fastest way for me to get around town and especially to school. I live relatively close to school, but not close enough to walk, and there is also no sidewalks to safely walk there.

Student #77, 12th Grade Female

Every day I interact with the environment here in Lewisville, North Carolina. I interact with the environment whether it is day or night. At my school, Forsyth Country Day School, I am very interactive. There are many things to do here. The first thing I notice when entering my school is the numerous amount of beautiful trees. The trees surround and are throughout our school everywhere. There are also plants that we have grown around our school. We have a garden by our school pond that was made by our gardening club. The garden is taken care of every week very nicely. The pond which the garden is next to is full of life. There is a lot of different fish ranging from big to small. The pond also includes cute turtles, which happen to be one of my favorite animals. I actually own a turtle named Mosey. There are sometimes water snakes in and around the pond, which is expected because it is their kind of living environment. Most of the time when I leave school, I go straight home. When I get home, I immediately go for a run that is if I do not have a lot of school work. I like going for runs because it relieves my stress and releases endorphins which make you feel good and happy. As I am running I like to feel the fresh outside air. I usually only go for outdoor runs if the temperature is suitable to do so. If it is too cold or too hot then I choose to go to our local gym and run on the treadmill instead. Residents of Forsyth County, which is where we live, are always surprised with the weather. This week, even though it is November which is supposed to be one of the colder months here, got to a high of 70 degrees, and a low of 25 degrees. Later this week, there is a chance of snow...so we never know what to expect in North Carolina.

Student #203, 12th Grade Male

In my neighborhood, I interact with the environment by running around Winston-Salem and breathing in the fresh, clean air. I also hang out with my friends who live on my street and we throw the football when it is relatively warm outside. At this time of the year, the leaves are starting to come off of the trees and form huge piles on the roads. This is rather difficult when driving around but it shows the seasonal change. In the mornings, I have to brush leaves off of my car due to the tall and abundance of trees in my neighborhood. At school, there really isn't much of a change during winter except for how none of the kids who go to school socialize outside because of the coolness of the air. In December, the weather is cold enough so that it has the possibility to snow several inches which makes the trees and ground look very appealing to the eyes. The sight of snow causes people to freak out because our city is not accustomed to snow because generally speaking it is a temperate climate. Personally, I drive an economically friendly car that has very good gas mileage and does not produce a lot of emissions. Compared to the other cars here it is a very environmentally beneficial car. Sometimes when it gets cold my friends and I have bonfires where we all bring jackets and blankets, so that we can hang and roast marshmallows. When it gets into the heart of winter, I we have to make fires in our house because it gets so cold. This creates a lot of smoke but isn't necessarily harming the environment. The smell of burning logs is so good and helps keep the house warm rather than having to use our heating unit. It really is a wonderful time of the year.

Student #7, 12th Grade Male

Each morning I drive five minutes to school in my automobile. The automobile emits gases into the environment that unfortunately can be harmful to the environment. Throughout the drive in the fall I see red, orange and yellow leaves all around as the trees are turning colors in preparation for winter. The weather is starting to become colder each day as winter approaches. After school I walk my dog around my neighborhood to get her out into the environment. I play golf as my hobby, which allows me to break from my school work and experience nature. During the spring and summer the grass is bright green and the flowers are out, but the colder it gets the grass dies and turns a dull brown and the flowers die off for the winter. The animals around my neighborhood are not as visible in the winter. The birds migrate south and some animals go into hibernation. During the warmer months multiple varieties of birds, squirrels, deer, and snakes can be found around my house. When it is warmer outside and the grass is growing I use a lawn mower to cut the grass in my yard. My mom plants flowers and I have to water the flower beds to keep them healthy. I also have to pull the harmful weeds out of the flower beds so they do not kill the flowers. At school we pick up recycling so the waste can be reused and not dumped at a dump site. These are all little ways that I interact with the environment around me on a day to day basis.

Student #73, 12th Grade Male

I interact with my environment on a daily basis. Whether it is walking outside to my next class, walking to my car to go somewhere, or performing daily activities outside, a day does not go by that environmental exposure does not take place. Interaction and exposure to the environment also has a lot of health benefits rather than sitting at a desk all day working. While walking to my automobile, there is always a lot of plant and vegetation. There are also a lot of smells other than ones produced by nature. The automobiles when in a great number give off a lot of emissions, which can pollute the air. This makes it sometimes hard to breathe. With the way our country is set up, it is almost impossible without a car or another way of transportation since nothing is close together or within walking distance. The activities, which I perform outside, vary with the changing seasons. In the summer when the weather is warm, I play a lot of sports including golf, swimming, and tennis. With most sports, I can only play them when the weather permits. I also go to the eastern part of the country to the ocean as a vacation. The weather in the ocean communities is always different than at home. The air is always filled with a salt breeze and I can always hear the waves. In the winter, the weather becomes much colder. This limits the amount of activities I am able to perform outside. However, one thing that is very popular in America is snow sports. I often go to the mountains during the winter and ski and snowboard down the mountains. The air is also a lot thinner in the mountains making exercise a lot more difficult. I always try to get daily exposure to the environment and always keep the natural world in mind.

Student #63, 12th Grade Female

Winston Salem, North Carolina has a beautiful environment and has been my home for seventeen years. Wherever you are there tends to always be grass, trees, or some sort of plants. Here in Winston Salem during the fall, the trees are gorgeous. The leaves are all sorts of colors such as red, orange, yellow, and, green. I love fall here! The weather here in Winston Salem changes often, one day it will be nice and the next it can be very cold. At Forsyth Country Day School our school environment is magnificent. The grass is always green, the flowers are always bright and blooming, the pine needles are always spread, and there is never any trash found around the campus. In Winston Salem, people take advantage of having such a beautiful environment. Around the community there are always many walkers walking their dogs, kids biking, people running and much more activity. People love being outside in Winston Salem. The environment here is so nice and soothing everyone takes it in when they can. Also here in Winston Salem, many people play outside sports. There are many soccer and football fields and tennis and basketball courts around the community that people play on. For example I play soccer for a club called Twins City Soccer. My team and I have practice three times a week outside at 7:15 p.m. Being outside practicing with my team, is very refreshing and always reminds me of how lucky I am to have such a pretty environment around me.

Student #20, 12th Grade Male

The natural world around me plays a large part in my everyday life. My home is surrounded by large areas of woodlands, housing many animals including deer, squirrels, and coyotes. Many members of my family like to use this surrounding land for hunting deer and turkeys which we will then eat for family dinners. Another aspect of nature that is heavily involved with my life is fishing. There is a pond on the land surrounding my house and my brother and father like to go catch-and-release fishing in it. Another role nature plays in my life is the ability to play with my family's dogs. I will often go outside and play "fetch" with them or my family will be shooting skeet (which are clay targets) and they will go chasing after the pieces. Nature also plays a large role in my daily school life. Every day I drive about ten minutes through a small town to reach our school. Our school is naturally beautiful and is surrounded by a nice wooded area. The main impact nature has on my life at school though, is through my playing of sports. Each fall season I play soccer and we are outside on the soccer field everyday afterschool either practicing for one and a half hours or playing a game. During this time, I get to be in direct contact with my school's natural surroundings and get to experience the joy of having nature so close to my school. I also get to experience nature through another sport, tennis. In the spring season, I play tennis and I get to experience entirely different weather conditions than I do during the fall soccer season. In conclusion, nature plays a fundamental role in my daily activities not only at my house but also in the activities I participate in at my school.

Student #69, 12th Grade Male

The way Americans interact with the natural world is quite irresponsible, but the majorities of citizens do not realize or even care. Waste is collected once a week in neighborhoods which shows how much trash each household produces. Some households do not even recycle because they simply do not want to give in to helping the environment. At our school most students are bought cars on their 16th birthday which can cause a huge increase in emissions because siblings no longer take one car, but multiple. The car that I worked to buy for myself is quite compact and fuel efficient, which means the car burns less fuel than bigger cars. There are virtually no students that walk or ride bicycles to school anymore, but one of my friends walks to school every day. His great attitude about walking to school needs to be shown to more students so fewer cars are driven which will start to decrease the amount of pollution required to go to school. Two of my classmates and I have been installing sink components that use less water for the school. You may wonder why we would want to use less water. It is because we are using way more water than necessary, especially since the sinks are mostly used to wash one's hands. Many of the students eat school at nearby restaurants instead of the cafeteria, which uses excessive fuel to provide the transportation to the restaurants. Compared to other schools nearby we are considered one of the most environmentally friendly campuses. Our sustainability class is trying to help our school produce respect the natural world by using partnerships, education, service, student health, and facilities to further our outreach to those in necessity of a more eco-friendly campus.

Student #208, 12th Grade Male

I interact with the environment around me in different ways depending on what season it is. When school is about to start at the end of summer, I wear short sleeves because usually it gets pretty hot outside. Also, when it is summer with warm weather, I play tennis. The warm weather causes my house to have the air conditioner on inside even though that may waste energy. In fall and winter in North Carolina, it tends to get to weather that is very cold or even freezing. During our spring break the weather is usually very cold so my family goes out of town to Florida, or on some type of vacation where the weather is warmer for a chance to get out of the cold. If people enjoy the cold weather there are options for them to go skiing or have some other winter activity that they enjoy. Along with the weather, I have different interactions with wildlife around me. When I walk my two dogs in the morning, I usually see deer and rabbits around the woods of my house. When it is time for me to go to school, I get in my car and drive to school. My car is not very fuel-efficient but I try not to drive that much because of the emissions that vehicles spread. When I get to school, I walk outside to get to my classes. One thing I like about our school is the windows all of my classes have to I can look outside and what it is like outside and in my Honors Sustainability class, I have a view of our school's pond. All in all , my interactions with the natural world around are heavily dependant on what time of the year it is.

Student #186, 12th Grade Male

I interact with my environment in many different ways some are good and others are bad. Some ways that I interact with my environment in a good way are mowing the lawn, recycling, making fires, and growing food. I mow the lawn once every two weeks and dump the grass and dead leaves into a compost pile that I have created at my home. This helps recycle the natural nutrients of the dead organic material back into the environment. Another way that I help the local environment is through another form of recycling, I recycle all paper, plastic, and glass waste from my home so that it does not end up in a landfill where i could hurt the environment. I also try to make a lot of fires in the winter to cut down on my home's use of heat because we power our heat with fossil fuels which is bad for the environment. I also help my father in our home garden where we grow our own vegetables, free from pesticides, that also help provide for the environment. The vegetables that fall on the ground and rot will provide for animals and the soil of my environment. I try to be environmentally conscious but not everything I do interacts with my local environment in a good way. Some of the less desirable things I do for the environment are driving to school, taking long showers, using electricity, and other things. I drive to school everyday and my car burns gasoline and emits harmful green house gases into the atmosphere which contributes to global warming. I also take showers daily and this wastes a lot of water that would be better used else where. Many times I take two showers a day, once in the morning and again after playing basketball, this adds up to a lot of wasted water. One other way I effect the environment negatively is just by using electricity all the time. Most electricity I use is generated by burning coal which is bad for the environment because it releases harmful chemicals into the atmosphere. I use electricity for everything almost, to light my house, to heat and cool my house, to power my computer and countless other devices. It would be almost impossible to stop using electricity. I effect the environment in both good ways and bad.

Student #34, 12th Grade Male

Everyday, people interact with their environment. This can take place even when we do not realize it. I try to make an effort to have the least negative impact on the environment that I can. For instance, I am a part of an initiative to install skylights in the classrooms in our school. This project not only benefits the students by providing a healthy study environment, but it also eliminates the need for energy to light classrooms. Another way in which positively impact the environment is by managing the recycling in one section of my school. This program helps reduce waste while also promoting recycling to the students, teachers, and families in our school community. My conservation of the environment can be attributed to my love of nature and the amount of time that I spend in nature. Whether I am fishing, running, golfing, or lying on the beach, I love taking in my surroundings and observing wildlife. When I take the time to appreciate the beautiful place that I live in; with clean air, water, and wildlife, I am glad that I try to take care of it for others and me. In spite of my love of nature and conservation, I inevitably affect the earth in a negative way sometimes. For example, I drive my car everywhere I go. By doing so, I emit greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. Things like these cannot be avoided. Everyone should take the time to appreciate nature so that they will want to conserve it too!